

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00617 172027Z

73 L

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 W

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R 171500Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 383

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 6 1 7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TO

SUBJECT: FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT MEATCHI'S "ARREST"

REF: LOME 0597

1. ACCORDING TO FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEATCHI "ARREST", EYADEMA WAS MOTIVATED BY IRRITATION THAT MEATCHI HAS BOYCOTTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENTIAL TRAVELS. WHEN EYADEMA DID NOT SEE MEATCHI AT AIRPORT ON RETURN FROM GUINEA MARCH 10, HE ORDERED THAT MEATCHI BE CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. MEATCHI WAS PICKED UP THAT EVENING AND HIS HOUSE WAS SEARCHED. SEVERAL WEAPONS WERE FOUND.

2. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT MEATCHI IS WELL-KNOWN GUN BUFF, AND HIGH POWERED RIFLE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN GIVEN HIM BY DAYAN AT TIME WHEN MEATCHI'S FORTUNES AND ISRAELI-TOGOLESE RELATIONS WERE BETTER. IT ALSO ESTABLISHED THAT MEATCHI'S AIRPORT BOYCOTT RESULTED FROM HIS RESENTMENT OVER FAILURE TO GET NEW ASSIGNMENT AFTER HIS POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE WAS ABOLISHED LAST YEAR IN CABINET REORGANIZATION AND OVER WIFE'S FAILURE TO BE
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PAGE 02 LOME 00617 172027Z

RENOMINATED VICE-PRESIDENT OF RPT'S WOMEN'S SECTION. REPORTED

CONNECTION WITH KEREKOU DID NOT CHECK OUT.

3. OUTCOME OF INCIDENT IS MEATCHI HAS BEEN RELEASED AND
ADMONISHED TO SHOW MORE RESPECT TO PRESIDENT IN FUTURE. HE HAS
ALSO BEEN SUSPENDED FROM RPT CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THREE MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: MEATCHI'S "ARREST" IS ILLUSTRATION OF EYADEMA'S
PENCHANT FOR USING ARBITRARY POWER TO KEEP POTENTIAL
POLITICAL OPPOSITION OFF BALANCE. IT ALSO POINTS UP TO
TOGOLESE VALUE EYADEMA PLACES ON CONSTANT DISPLAY OF POSITIVE
LOYALTY. POLITICAL IMPACT OF WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE MINOR INCIDENT
IS MAGNIFIED BY OPAQUE MEDIUM OF RUMOR THROUGH WHICH MOST
POLITICALLY AWARE TOGOLESE EVENTUALLY LEARN OF SUCH EVENTS.
RAWLS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
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